

## Get Connected: Afford-A-Phone

### What are Lifeline and Link-Up?

Lifeline and Link-Up are federal programs offering telephone discounts to low-income consumers in all U.S. states and territories. The discounts cover both wireline and wireless phones. Those who qualify may receive discounts of up to \$30 on telephone hook-up charges (Link-Up) and between \$5.25 and \$10.00 on monthly basic phone service (Lifeline), depending on where you live. Additionally, some states give matching discounts, so you may save even more.

### Who Qualifies?

These programs are available to qualifying consumers in every state, territory, and commonwealth. Eligibility varies by state. States that have their own state Lifeline program may have their own criteria. In states that rely solely on the Federal Low Income Program, a consumer must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or participate in one of the following assistance programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, and the National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program.

### How Can I Sign Up?

To apply for Lifeline and/or Link-Up, call your local telephone company. For more information, contact the FCC at 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) voice, 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) TTY, or by mail at FCC, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554. You may also visit the FCC's Web site: [www.fcc.gov/cgb/getconnected](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/getconnected).

## Get Connected: Afford-A-Phone Facts

 The *Lifeline and Link-Up* programs provided more than \$700 million in support to qualified low-income consumers in 2003.

 More than 6 million consumers benefit from *Lifeline and Link-Up* discounts each year.

 More than 1,500 telephone companies in the United States and U.S. territories participate in *Lifeline and Link-Up*.

 Both wireline and wireless companies participate in *Lifeline and Link-Up*. Contact your local wireless or wireline phone company for more information.



For more information on programs to help you afford phone service, contact the Federal Communications Commission by phone or visit our Web site: [www.fcc.gov/cgb](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb)

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For questions about eligibility or participation, contact your local telephone company or your state's regulatory agency, like the Public Utilities Commission.

To find out how to reach your state's regulatory agency, visit the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Web site at:

[www.naruc.org](http://www.naruc.org)

To get state and company specific information on how to qualify for Lifeline and Link-up, visit the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Web site at:

[www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org)

For more information about *Get Connected: Afford-A-Phone*, visit our Web site at:

[www.fcc.gov/cgb/  
getconnected](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/getconnected)

Or call or write us at:

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